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SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 30 Sep 53

SUBJECT Soviet Military Uniforms

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DATE OF INFO

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Soviet officers and EM wore a special parade or dress blouse (mundir). It was khaki-colored, double-breasted, and of a better wool material for officers. The Air Force and tank officers' parade blouse (kurtka), did not have a closed collar, but had lapels.
2. All EM were also supposed to receive dress blouses, but as a rule only NCO's received them. Metal (gold, bronze) orders and medals were worn only on the dress blouse; on other blouses only ribbons were worn. Regular service uniform parts completed the dress uniform, i.e., service breeches, boots, and caps.
3. The field or combat uniform has been abolished since the end of World War II, and was neither issued nor worn after 1945.
4. [redacted] women's uniforms in the Soviet Army [redacted] were the same as the uniforms issued to male personnel, except that a skirt was worn instead of trousers or breeches. 25X1
5. The following special uniforms were issued to Soviet troops:
  - a. White uniforms for ski troops, [redacted] 25X1
  - b. Felt boots for troops stationed in cold climates. No felt boots were issued to troops in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

ARMY review completed.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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c. A quilted jacket and trousers called "body warmer" (telogreyka) were issued to tank crews, motorcycle drivers, and truck drivers, in addition to the regular overcoat.

d. A three-quarter quilted overcoat (bushlak) was sometimes issued to tank drivers in place of the quilted jacket and trousers; 60% had the former and the other 40% had the latter issued to them; these articles of apparel were issued only for the winter and had to be turned in during the spring.

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e. Work coveralls of blue denim were issued to drivers and automobile repairmen.

6. The officers' winter uniform consisted of the following items:

<u>Quan.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Description and Remarks</u>
1	Overcoat	Wool	-	Issued for three years. <sup>3</sup>
1	Blouse (kitel')	Wool	Khaki	Issued for two years. <sup>4</sup>
1 pr.	Trousers, (long) or breeches	Wool	Dark blue	Issued for one year.

7. The officers' summer uniform was as follows:

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<u>Quan.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Description and Remarks</u>
1	Tunic (gimna- sterka)	Cotton	Khaki	Issued for one year.
1 pr.	Trousers (long)	Cotton	Khaki	Issued for one year.

8. The EM's uniform was the same for summer and winter, for field training, guard duties, dress, and work details. One set was for dress, the other for training and work.

<u>Quan.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Description and Remarks</u>
1	Overcoat	Wool	-	Issued for entire enlistment period of three to four years. <sup>5</sup>

2	Tunics	Wool	Khaki	
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2 pr.	Breeches	Cotton	Khaki	Issued for one year. <sup>6</sup>
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9. Officers wore a garrison cap in the summer and a fur cap in the winter. Each was issued for three years.

10. EM wore an overseas cap (pilotka), and a winter hat, which was the same shape as that of the officers, but of a poorer quality. Each hat was issued only for the proper season and had to be returned.

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11. Re-enlistees (sverkhsrochniki) were issued an officer's visored cap.
12. Helmets were not issued to rear units.
13. Company grade officers were alternately issued black cowhide boots one year, and black calfskin boots the following year. Field grade officers and officers in the grade of colonel and higher were issued black low-quarter shoes one year and calf or cowhide boots the next.
14. EM were issued boots.<sup>8</sup> EM assigned to the rear services, automobile units, depots, etc., received boots every year, although line unit soldiers received new ones every eight months. In cold areas, felt boots were issued to troops, but the details of this are unknown to me, as none were issued in the Soviet Zone of Germany.
15. Officers were issued a tan Sam Browne belt and pistol holster for a period of four years. The belt had to be worn for training, but was not compulsory for social affairs. Wool gloves (khaki, blue or dark gray) were issued for two years. Two pairs of dark blue wool socks and two pairs of white footwraps were issued each year. One set of shoulderboards, without stars, was also issued. Officers had no raincoats, but they could buy thin gray waterproof coats at PX stores. They received two sets of summer underwear and one set of winter underwear. The winter set was made of white flannel, the summer set of white cotton. Both had long sleeves and long legs.
16. EM received a leather tunic belt and a canvas trousers belt for four years. They received one star for their overseas cap and a set of shoulderboards for their entire term of service. In the summer EM received two pairs of white cotton footwraps (exchanged weekly) and in the winter two pairs of white flannel footwraps (also exchanged weekly). They also received annually two white collar bands, worn under the tunic collar. EM were issued one set of cotton underwear for summer and one set of flannel for winter; both had full length sleeves and legs. They exchanged their dirty pair for clean ones when they bathed, usually once a week.
17. Officers received the scheduled new clothing at the end of each issue period, regardless of whether the old issue were still serviceable. They did not have to turn in the old issue.
18. Officers could purchase the following items in PX stores: gloves, low-quarter shoes, and complete uniforms. At their own expense, officers could buy a white linen blouse (kitel') for wear in summer. A white cover purchased by the officer was worn on the garrison cap, with a white blouse.
19. Most officers used their summer uniform for work or terrain training details (summer or winter). 25X1
20. EM had to turn in the old items upon receiving a new issue, but in some rear units, where EM worked on vehicles repair, etc., they were permitted to retain their old clothing as work uniforms. In my unit all EM had three or four uniforms, which was unusual, as many EM had only two uniforms, and some only one. If an EM lost an issued item, he was usually punished for carelessness and given

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a replacement free.

21. Uniform sizes were designated as small, medium, and large.

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